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The Friday Letter

Vol. 8 No. 11

June 24, 1988

On the Hill



Senate Completes Hunger Relief Legislation Markup

The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, Subcommittee on Nutrition and Investigations, marked up and reported to the full committee on June 9 an unIntroduced, unnumbered proposal entitled, "The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988."

The full committee marked up and reported the proposal on June 14. Several amendments were adopted during committee markup. They include a proposal offered by Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN) for a demonstration pilot project in Minnesota involving the Child-Care Food Program, and Senator Tom Daschle's (D-SD) amendments to tie the Indian food package value to any increases in food stamp benefits, to allow Indian tribes to manage employment and training programs on Indian reservations, and to take the fat and carbohydrate content into consideration when developing the Indian food package.

The House Agriculture Committee, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, will mark up the House version of the Hunger Prevention Act on June 23. The House Agriculture full committee markup is scheduled for July 12.

Status of Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1989

The appropriation^s bills for USDA have made significant progress so far this year. Perhaps mindful of the

President's promise to veto another "continuing resolution" or "stop-gap" government-wide funding measure, Congress has marked up numerous separate appropriation^s bills this year, largely within scheduled target dates. The following table summarizes the actions on FNS programs:

(On the Hill Continued Page 2)

Hispanic Employment Program Manager Appointed

Lillyvette Montalvo-Hogan was recently appointed to serve as Hispanic Employment Program manager at headquarters through September 30, 1989.

Montalvo-Hogan is a public information specialist on the public information staff. She will be responsible for advising and assisting FNS and HNIS officials in expanding opportunities for Hispanics.

Accepting the appointment, she said, "I am willing to work hard for this program and for what it represents. I hope to accomplish some very important goals, such as supporting and working with Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Division, so that we may attract more Hispanics into our agency."

Looking forward to Hispanic Heritage Week in September, Montalvo-Hogan said, "I would like to give my full support to Hispanic Heritage Week showing how special this week really is not only to me, because of my Hispanic background, but also to the many people who represent Hispanics and to those who'd like to learn more about Hispanics and their accomplishments."

-Story by Mary Kennedy
Public Information Staff

Status of FNS Appropriations
(June 21, 1988)

Program	1989 Budget Request (\$000)	1989 House Passed 6-16-88 H.R. 4784 (\$000)	1989 Senate Committee Mark-up (\$000)
Child Nutrition	\$4,609,127	\$4,624,127	\$4,573,816
Special Milk	19,925	19,925	19,925
WIC	1,876,749	1,927,362	1,927,362
CSFP	47,099	53,500	50,000
Food Stamps	12,519,705	12,519,705	12,504,705
Nutrition Assistance/P.R.	908,250	908,250	908,250
Nutrition Program/ Elderly	141,293	141,293	150,396
Needy Family	57,854	57,854	48,751
FPA	94,825	86,494	91,952
TEFAP	0	50,000 ^{1/}	50,000 ^{2/}

^{1/} House has a 1% reduction on discretionary programs.

^{2/} Senate has a 2% reduction on discretionary programs.

In order to meet budget targets, the House imposed a one-percent reduction in discretionary spending programs. The Senate markup at full committee imposed a two-percent reduction in discretionary programs. At press time, action was pending and a vote may have occurred to pass the Senate appropriations bill. If so, a conference will be likely be scheduled to work out differences between the House and Senate bills.

Linda L. Boling
Editor, Public Information Staff

The Friday Letter is published every 2 weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address, or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone no. 756-3284.

-Information by Catherine Whitehurst
Governmental Affairs Staff



SERO Held \$6 Million Club Conferences

Art Trotter, SERO's "\$6 Million Club" coordinator, discusses plans for the two regional conferences with Mary Ross (left), Mississippi state coordinator, and Gwen Kuhns (right), South Carolina state coordinator.



Two recent SERO conferences provided forums for county food stamp staffs to share problems and solutions for improving Food Stamp Program operations. The conferences, part of SERO's "\$6 Million Club" initiative, kicked off a year-long project to increase food stamp payment accuracy through management improvement in the region's 63 counties.

The first meeting was attended by local staffs from targeted counties in Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, and South Carolina. County staffs from Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Alabama attended a second conference.

Both sessions featured workshops during which participants shared tips for program improvements and asked their counterparts from other counties for suggested ways to deal with specific problems.

"At past meetings, regional staff arranged formal workshop presentations and shared ideas we thought were worthwhile," said Art Trotter, regional

project coordinator. But for the \$6 Million Club initiative, he continued, "We decided that county staffs are really in the best position to identify their own problem areas and to tell each other what works and what doesn't."

Prior to the workshops, each participant was given a notebook of data showing how each county and state ranked in various aspects of program operations.

After participants were shown how to interpret the data, they were able to pinpoint those counties which were most successful in coping with specific problem areas.

Trotter said he was pleased with how actively county staffs participated in the discussions "and with the number of good ideas that emerged." In addition, he said, two of the 63 counties received special awards during the conferences. Floyd County, Kentucky, and Holmes County, Mississippi, were recognized for achieving zero error rates during the past year.

As a followup to the \$6 Million Club conferences, each county is now preparing a "Quality Improvement Plan" which will be implemented later this year.

-Story and photo by Brenda Schuler
Formerly with SERO Public Affairs Staff

Arkansas Department of Human Services Recognized

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Southwest Regional Administrator Gene Dickey were principal speakers at a recent awards ceremony in Little Rock. Some 800 people gathered to recognize the efforts of Arkansas Department of Human Services state workers in reducing error rates in the Food Stamp Program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program, and medical assistance programs.

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of April with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

Apr. 1987 Mar. 1988 Apr. 1988 2/

Food Stamp Program: 1/

People participating (mil.)	19.6	19.2	19.1
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	901.1	967.3	950.6
Average bonus per person	\$ 46.04	\$ 50.29	\$ 49.86
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	996.4	1,068.9	1,052.2

National School Lunch Program:

Number of schools participating (thous.)	90.2	90.6	90.6
Children participating (mil.)	23.9	24.5	24.4
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.7	11.8	11.6
Percentage of lunches served free	42.0	41.1	41.0
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.7	6.7	6.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	330.7	393.6	335.2

School Breakfast Program:

Number of schools participating (thous.)	37.2	38.7	38.7
Children participating (mil.)	3.7	3.9	3.8
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	88.1	87.4	87.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	45.0	55.5	48.6

Child Care Food Program:

Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	40.1	44.3	39.5
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	27.7	32.9	30.2
Percentage of all meals served free	77.7	78.2	78.0
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	49.6	57.9	52.8

Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):

People participating (mil.)	3.5	3.6	3.6
Food cost (\$ mil.)	113.8	124.2	123.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	140.9	152.8	154.8

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/

People participating (thous.)	200.7	220.7	213.5
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.2	3.5	3.5

Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:

Number of projects in operation	106	107	107
People participating (thous.)	145.5	141.6	136.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.4	4.5	4.3

Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:

Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	66.6	64.3	57.8
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1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of June 24, 1988.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

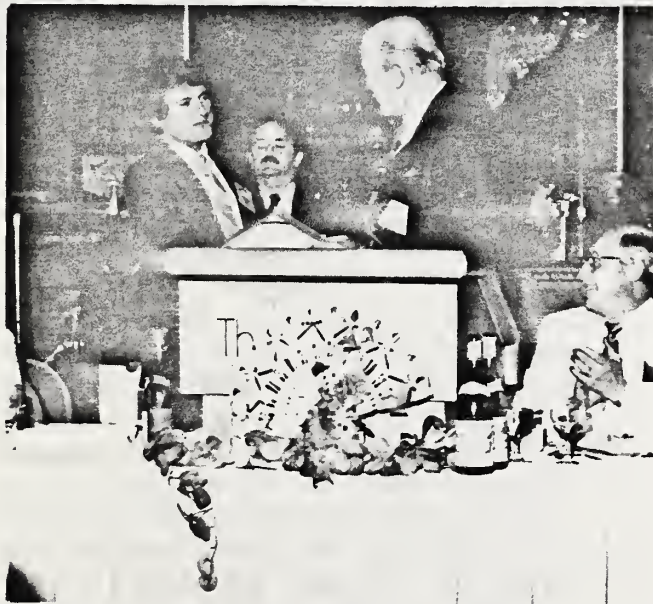
NERO Presents First Retailer Award

Wayno's Market of Antrim, New Hampshire, was recently selected as the first recipient of the Food Stamp Program Retailer Award.

"The purpose of the award is to recognize the important role of retail stores in achieving the program's goal of raising nutrition levels among low-income households," said Regional Administrator Harold McLean.

The store, owned by Wayno D. Olson, was selected based on the store's food stamp operation since 1974, when the program first began in New Hampshire. Specifically, Olson was cited for his efforts to make the store accessible to the handicapped and for providing free delivery service to the elderly in the Antrim area.

McLean presented the award at the New Hampshire Retail Grocers Association Convention Banquet. More than 300 food store owners heard McLean's keynote address to promote greater voluntary compliance on the part of grocers.



At the podium, Wayno Olson (left) receives the Food Stamp Program Retailer Award from Regional Administrator Harry McLean.

-Story and photo by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

SERO Provides WordPerfect Training for Field Offices



Field office secretaries listen intently to instructions concerning the use of WordPerfect.

SERO recently provided some unique training for several of its employees. As a followup to the Computer Hardware Acquisition and Modernization Program (CHAMP), SERO maintained its training facility for one extra week to train field office secretaries in WordPerfect.

Charlene Grundhoffer of the Information Resources Management (IRM) staff conducted full-day sessions to familiarize the 10 participants with the new word processing system.

"They responded wonderfully to the training," Grundhoffer said. "It was amazing how fast they made the transition from WordStar to WordPerfect."

Because each secretary returned to her field office prepared to use WordPerfect, SERO accomplished its goal of having all the secretarial staff in the region using the same software.

"We utilized the training facility built for CHAMP and piggybacked field office training on it," said Ralph Anzur, IRM systems analyst. "And it worked well."

-Story and photo by Steve Watson
SERO Public Affairs Staff

Karu Receives Arthur S. Flemming Award

Gilda Karu from the Midwest Regional Office was one of six recipients of the Arthur S. Flemming Award. Karu received the award in recognition of her leadership and devotion to duty in ensuring that the Food Stamp Program is responsive in meeting the needs of low-income Americans. The citation read, "Her proven abilities and past performance have demonstrated personal dedication toward the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Food and Nutrition Service."



At a reception, Administrator Anna Kondratas (right) and Associate Administrator Sonia Crow (left) were among many FNS employees to congratulate Karu.

Karu is an active member or officer in a variety of organizations including the Federal Women's Program, Estonia-American National Council, Chicago Vassar Club, Captive Nations Committee of Chicago, League of Women Voters, American Public Welfare Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Employer Advisory Committee for the Center for the Rehabilitation and Training of the Disabled.

For the past 40 years, the annual award has been presented by the Washington, DC, Downtown Jaycees to men and women who

have made substantial contributions in the fields of science and administration to the Federal Government, and in turn, the Nation. The recipients have also given unselfishly to their community through civic organizations.

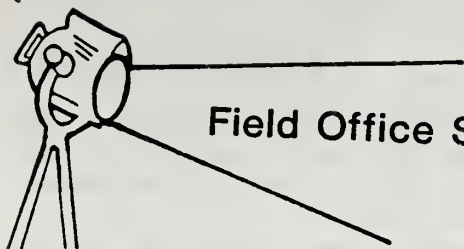
-Story by Linda Boling
Photo by Larry Rana
Public Information Staff

WRO Raises Funds to Help AIDS Victims

WRO supporters drop pennies into a jar in efforts to raise money to help AIDS victims. From left: David Gott, Jim Blattner, Mavis Buchholtz, and Brian Chevez. Jim read about the fund-raising effort and proposed that two of the jars, which are labeled "Every Penny Counts/Direct Financial Aid to People with AIDS," be placed in WRO. More than \$70,000 has been raised so far in 192 locations in the San Francisco area. The funds have gone directly to helping 230 AIDS victims pay for necessities such as rent, and electrical and telephone bills.



-Story and photo by Lois A. Grunwald
WRO Public Affairs Staff



Field Office Spotlight

MARO Spotlights "Volunteer" Pearl Watson

Food Program Specialist Pearl Watson--Charleston, West Virginia, field office--recently used her Toastmasters public speaking skills to train five Job Corps students. Watson is a member of the Marvin G. Rook Toastmasters in Charleston, which offered to train Job Corps students through the Toastmasters International's Youth Leadership Program.

Watson spent one night a week for 8 weeks helping young high-school graduates develop speaking and leadership skills. The students learned how to prepare and present a speech, conduct meetings, and evaluate speeches. According to Watson, they also learned effective listening skills and developed lifelong self-confidence and interpersonal communication skills.

Watson received a certificate of appreciation for her efforts from the group life director of the Charleston Job Corps Center. In addition, she completed a prerequisite for becoming an Able Toastmaster in Toastmasters International.

Also in connection with her Toastmasters work, Watson says the U.S. Post Office in Charleston has invited her to present two workshops in mid-May entitled "Gaining Power Through Positive Action."

Watson keeps active with numerous interests. In addition to Toastmasters activities, she was recently appointed to a 1-year post on West Virginia's statewide Women's Commission by the president of the West Virginia Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

-Article by Linda Feldman
MARO Public Affairs Staff

(Arkansas Continued from Page 3)

On behalf of the Southwest Region, Dickey presented certificates of appreciation to the state's food stamp area corrective action committees for their role in reducing the Arkansas payment error rate. Arkansas completed Fiscal Year 1987 with a State reported error rate of 3.43 percent compared to 6.71 percent in Fiscal Year 1986 and 7.88 percent in Fiscal Year 1985.



Southwest Regional Administrator Gene Dickey (left) and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton.



Gene Dickey and Arkansas Department of Human Services Director Walt Patterson (right).

-Story and Photos by Judy Snow
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk Stay in Schooler	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk Typist	(A)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until Filled	NONE	FNS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open	88-999	FNS
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-630	9/11	6/30/88	88-42	SNP
o Labor Rel Spec	(G)	GS-233	12	7/5	88-44	FNS
o Home Economist	(A)	GS-493	9/11/12	7/5	88-45	HNIS
o Home Economist	(A)	GS-493	7/9	7/5	88-46	HNIS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	5/6	6/27	88-47	AC
o Management Spec	(L)	GM-201	12/13	7/11	88-48	PED
o Clerk (Typing) (PT)	(L)	GS-303	1	7/5	88-49	SFPD

Office Location

FNS	- Food and Nutrition Service
SNP	- Special Nutrition Program
PED	- Personnel Division
HNIS	- Human Nutrition Information Service
AC	- Accounting Division
SFPD	- Supplemental Food Programs Division

Area of Consideration

(A)	- All Sources
(G)	- Government-wide
(L)	- Local Commuting Area Only

